

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 2000 LB 1399

commission would request 500 of these awards from the Corporation for National Service. Each award is valued at \$4,725. The award would be used for incentives for new college graduates to stay in Nebraska or for experienced teachers to pursue graduate degree...degrees (laugh), degrees. The teachers would become AmeriCorps members and commit to teaching in Nebraska for two years. As AmeriCorps members, the teachers would be required to fill out an application, attend an orientation class, and one or two training sessions throughout the school year. And they would be...they would learn about service learning strategies for the purpose of helping their kids become more involved in their communities. And after a year of service, then the teacher is eligible for this award of \$4,725 and it can be used over a seven year period. And like I said, it can go to pay off college loans or it can go toward further education at an institution of higher learning. The teacher can repeat that award for another year, so we're talking a total of a possible \$9,450 per teacher. The annual amount of the federal funds to be leveraged for Nebraska through this program would be \$2.6 million, and I'm rounding that off, and Sherrie and Tom Miller from the commission, who is the Commission Executive Director, told us they thought that it might not even stop at the 500. They feel pretty assured that they would have enough money to cover 500 grants, but that if the program worked well and implemented well and it's successful, that it could possibly include even more teachers than that. I think it's an exciting idea. The only reason that the Health Department really came in is because the amendment was written to have all of this funnel through the Health Department, which houses the Volunteer Service Commission. The Health Department didn't feel like they were the appropriate agency, so after the hearing, Senator Bohke and the Commissioner of Education had a conversation, and the upshot of it was that the Department of Education indicated they would be willing to provide a half-time person to this project who would then be affiliated with the Volunteer Service Commission. So, subsequently, I withdrew the General File amendment and filed the Select File amendment, which asks for an appropriation of \$20,000 to fill out the other half of that salary and it would be available to use only for this purpose, only for the purpose of implementing this program, administering this program, and it would be done under contract, so that once the program went